



News Release

U.S. General Services Administration
Northeast & Caribbean Region

R2-06-103
March 14, 2006

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Five Points Artifacts On Exhibit At Lower Manhattan Federal Building

NEW YORK CITY - Eighteen artifacts from the Five Points collection will be on display through the month of March in the east lobby of the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building in lower Manhattan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

The artifacts are part of a collection of items that were recovered in the early 1990's during archaeological excavation prior to the construction of the Daniel P. Moynihan U.S. Courthouse in lower Manhattan. These items tell a very different story about the Five Points neighborhood than that depicted by the movie "*The Gangs Of New York*." Unlike the urban myths that identified Five Points as a dangerous and downtrodden slum inhabited by unsavory characters, the picture that emerges from the archaeology is one of a vibrant, working-class neighborhood where different ethnic groups got their start in America.

One of the notable pieces of the collection is a Staffordshire teacup dating from the 1830s or 1840s depicting Father Mathew and Irish Catholic leader in the temperance movement.

The artifacts included in this display are all that remain of a collection that originally contained more than 850,000 objects. The balance were in storage at GSA's archaeology lab in the basement of 6 World Trade Center and destroyed on 9/11. These few surviving artifacts, certainly among the best and representative of the larger collection, had been on display elsewhere at that time.

The Jacob K. Javits Federal Building is located on Broadway between Duane and Worth Streets in lower Manhattan. Visitors to the building can enter through either the Lafayette St. or Duane St. visitors' entrances. All visitors must pass through security screening to enter the building.

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Additional information regarding GSA programs and policies can be found at the agency's website: www.gsa.gov.